

Parent Connection

Elementary and Middle School Edition



Fall 2009

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Study finds three ways to help your child succeed in school

Parents want their children to do their best in school. But what works? A study by researchers at Indiana University found that children do better in the classroom when parents:

- Are positive. You know that your child is sensitive to your emotions. Not surprisingly, the study found that to also be true for parents' attitudes about schoolwork. Parents who thought their child could do an assignment successfully had a child who believed that, too. In addition, the study found that encouragement from a parent led a child to be more motivated. Model positive attitudes, and your child will copy them.
- Break it down. A long assignment can overwhelm your child. One of the easiest things you can do to help is to break that big task into smaller pieces. The study found that when children worked at a task they thought they could handle, they did better at it.
- Teach the importance of a final check. One of the best habits to instill in your child is to look over his work before handing it in. Oops--he added when he should have subtracted. He wrote their instead of there.

Correcting these minor mistakes can lead to a much better overall grade. In addition, the study found that children who were in the habit of checking over their work were more likely to volunteer to answer questions in class.

Reprinted with permission from the September 2009 issue of Parents make the difference!® (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2009 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: Anne Dopkins Stright and others, "Instruction Begins in the Home: Relations Between Parental Instruction and Children's Self-Regulation in the Classroom," Journal of Educational Psychology (American Psychological Association, www.apa.org/journals/edu).

Florida Inclusion Network/Pinellas (FIN)

The Florida Inclusion Network helps families and educators develop ways to educate students with disabilities in general education classrooms and other school and community settings.

What can a FIN Facilitator do for you?

- o Help your district and school identify needs for inclusive practices
- o Meet with teams of staff and family to plan for inclusion
- o Conduct study groups and develop communities of learning
- o Provide training on a variety of topics related to inclusion and student achievement
- o Help you select suitable materials and resources for inclusive classrooms
- o Guide teams through problem-solving

For more information call FIN/Pinellas at 727-588-6523 or go to www.FloridaInclusionNetwork.com



Helping families and their children have a successful and productive year is just one of our goals. Our services are varied because we know the needs and concerns of every family are different.

Services they provide include:

- Telephone Support
- Resource/Media Center
- Parent Information Packets
- Disability Awareness Programs
- Connections to Support Groups

For more information on any of these programs, contact FDLRS at 727-793-2723

FDLRS Gulfcoast

Serving Pasco, Pinellas and Hernando Counties

FDLRS Media Center



We added these titles to our Media Center this summer!

“101 Activities for Kids in Tight Spaces: at the Doctor’s office, on Car, Train, and Plane Trips, Home Sick in Bed...” by Carol Stock Kranowitz: When what you’ve got is a small space and a restless child, what you need are 101 ingenious solutions—right away. Here they are—easy to implement, creative fun for the three-to-seven year old—activities that can turn tough moments into teachable, terrific ones.

“No More Meltdowns” by Jed Baker: Positive strategies for managing and preventing out-of-control behavior. This book includes a 4-Step Model that will improve your everyday relationships with the children in your life.

“Have a New Kid by Friday: How to Change your Child’s Attitude, Behavior & Character in 5 Days” by Dr. Kevin Leman: This book shows parents how to reverse negative behavior in their children—fast! Focusing on changing a child’s attitude, behavior, and character, it contains chapters for each day of the week!

“Asperger’s...What Does it Mean to Me?” by Catherine Faherty: A workbook explaining self-awareness and life lessons to the child or youth with high functioning autism or Asperger’s. This title is also available in Spanish.

Contact Libby Jennings at FDLRS to check out these and many other materials from our Media Center.

FDLRS Media Center
2929 County Road 193
Clearwater, FL 33759
727-793-2723 x 2045



If you would like to receive emails or notices about state and district workshops and programs, join the FIN/ESE Family Information Listserve by emailing Cathy Heverly at heverlyc@pcsb.org subject “listserve” or call Cathy at 588-6020 to be added to a mailing list.

The Leadership Lead

"Failure is not an option"

by The Office of Exceptional Student Education Leadership Team



The beginning of the school presented some challenges with students being assigned to schools. However, staff from the Office of Exceptional Student Education and parents worked together to get students placed in their appropriate schools. Students and teachers are now settled in to the classroom and learning routines. District and school staff spent the summer enhancing and improving services to students with disabilities. Numerous workshops were developed to address student achievement both academically and behaviorally.

The district received stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Funds were allocated directly to the Office of Exceptional Student Education to increase professional development opportunities for teachers on new curriculum programs, instructional strategies and collaborative teaching. Smart Boards, audio books, electronic response remotes, software and other technology enhancements were also purchased with stimulus funds to enhance learning for students with disabilities.

Elementary supervisors introduced the new statewide reading assessment to elementary teachers. Over the summer teachers were provided with professional development opportunities to learn about the Florida Assessment for Instruction in Reading (FAIR). Elementary ESE Supervisors used Stimulus funds to purchase the SRA Early Intervention program and provided training for teachers. This research-based program will be used as a supplement to the core reading program used in the general education classroom. They also purchased the New Worlds intensive math program for Independent Varying Exceptionalities (IVE) classrooms. Secondary ESE supervisors developed training opportunities for secondary teachers to increase the use of manipulatives and hands on activities in secondary math classes.

Debbie Voight has joined the office as the new SED Network Supervisor. This multiagency Network for Students with Emotional Disabilities (SEDNET) has been devoted to facilitating the creation of a comprehensive "system of care" for high-risk students and students with emotional disabilities and their families. For more information about SEDNET you can visit the Florida DOE web site at www.fldoe.org/ese/sedhome.asp or call Debbie at 727-588-6468.

The Low Prevalence Department collaborated with the Center for Autism and Related Disorders at USF (CARD) on the Autism Summer Institute. The institute was held at St. Petersburg College Clearwater Campus August 4th - 6th. The conference provided teachers with information to assist students on the spectrum as well as students with cognitive challenges. The Low Prevalence Department/Emotional-Behavior Disorder teams coordinated and provided professional development to enhance school-wide positive supports. Staff attended the Crisis Prevention Institute over the summer. Eighteen new certified instructors are now available to provide training to Pinellas County Schools employees. The fourth CHAMPS Foundations cohort of 10 schools worked over the summer developing school-wide positive and proactive processes. Randy Sprick, national consultant from Safe and Civil Schools, provided a full day workshop on Behavioral Response to Intervention to both IDEA team members and Foundations cohort members. The ESE Office of Compliance serves schools and families to ensure the provision of IDEA for all students in Pinellas County

Schools. Our office provides continual updates as Federal Regulations and State Board Rules change. There have been many changes in the past year and we anticipate more changes to State Board Rule this year. One of the most recent changes to State Board Rules addresses Specific Learning Disabilities. By July 1, 2010, districts will no longer use a pattern of strengths and weaknesses (which includes the method also known as discrepancy model) as the criteria to determine a student eligible with a specific learning disability. The Problem Solving - Response to Instruction/ Intervention model will be used to guide instruction for every student in the district. For students who need more intensive support, individual problem solving will be used to determine the interventions necessary and the student's response to those interventions. The data collected will be a part of the assessment completed to determine eligibility should the team feel the student has a disability, which requires the need for specially designed instruction. If families have questions or concerns over their child's IEP they may call one of the three Compliance Team members:

- Stephanie Miller – Family Services Liaison- 588-6487
- Laura Bluett – Specialist for Discipline – 588-6482
- Lynne Mowatt – Supervisor – 588-6032

The Office of Exceptional Student Education will continue to support schools and students with disabilities on the implementation of IDEA. Cathy Heverly, resource teacher for ESE family services, is available at 588-6020 to assist families with questions or concerns about services, IEP's or other educational programs. You can also access information from the Pinellas County Schools web site at www.pcsb.org/ESE. If you need further assistance contact one of the following IDEA team leaders:

- Terri Hanley, 725-7918, ESE Supervisor for Region II Elementary Schools
- Mary Kale, 507-4795, ESE Supervisor for Region III Middle Schools
- Sue Kress, 507-4770, ESE Supervisor for Region IV High Schools
- Mary Beth Varner, 893-2988, ESE Supervisor for Region V Elementary Schools
- Sandy Smith, 588-6023, ESE Supervisor for PreK
- Cindy Bania, 588-6032, Assistant Superintendent, Exceptional Student Education
- All other supervisors who serve PreK-12 programs continue to work from the central administration building in Largo. If you experience difficulty in contacting ESE district staff at any location you may call either 588-6032 or 588-6042 for assistance.

Both district and school staff look forward to a successful school year. Thank you for your continued support and involvement. Please let us know if there is any way we can serve you better.

Going Green

In an effort to support Pinellas County Schools "Green" initiative the Parent Connection Newsletter is available in an electronic form. If you would like to help reduce paper copies and have this emailed to you, contact Cathy Heverly, heverlyc@pcsb.org, with your name, email address and child's name.



Success Stories



RTI and Student Success

Forest Lakes and Belleair Elementary have been piloting the Response to Intervention (RtI) process for the past two years in order to meet the needs of struggling students. With the development of School Based Leadership Teams and Professional Learning Communities, both schools were able to develop a system to implement research-based interventions and supplemental instruction to help struggling students be successful. With the implementation of RtI, both schools data showed students had significant learning gains from 2008-2009. Belleair Elementary's annual learning gains in reading went from 57% to 67% with the lowest performing students increasing their learning gains from 58% to 74%. Math learning gains also went up 11% overall from 2008-2009. Forest Lakes Elementary's learning gains in reading went increased from 68% in 2008 to 81% in 2009 with the lowest performing students increasing their reading from 70% to 79%. Math learning gains went from 75% in 2008 to 79% in 2009. Both schools are continuing this process while also studying ways to improve supports and implementation of programs.

Congratulations Belleair and Forest Lakes!

Swimming Success

by: Cathy Heverly

The city of St. Petersburg and St. Petersburg Aquatics partner every summer to offer children the opportunity to participate on the swim team at the local city pools. Children ages 4-18 practice daily and compete weekly against their peers from neighboring pools.

This summer I had the opportunity to watch children with special needs swimming and competing alongside their non-disabled peers. As the children entered the water to begin their daily practice, all differences, disabilities, academic or social struggles melted away. There were no differences in the water. The coaches also worked diligently with their swimmers, both in and out, of the water using a variety of styles to practice the movements.

I was impressed by the self-confidence I saw in each swimmer especially those with special needs. I was also impressed with the friendships and support that developed not only during practice but at each swim meet. Each age group would huddle together under the shade talking and laughing with one another while waiting for the next heat. No one noticed if someone spoke, walked or thought differently. They were out there to swim and beat their individual time. They were swimming to have fun!

Spotlight on Success

The week before schools starts is extremely busy for teachers beyond their classrooms. Many teachers spend their week participating in School Improvement workshops, curriculum meetings and district trainings. During that time they squeeze in a few hours going over lesson plans, arranging their classroom, and their student roster. When the first week of school begins both teachers and students are getting to know each other and the class routine. However, one general education teacher took that extra step to make sure she was informed about Doug, one of her students receiving Exceptional Student Education services.

Mrs. Moen a 4th grade general education teacher at Bay Vista Fundamental Elementary spent time prior to the first day of school reading Doug's IEP in order to familiarize herself with his strengths, goals, and accommodations. She then scheduled a meeting the first week of school with his parents to discuss accommodations and techniques to enhance his learning. Doug's mom is so pleased with Mrs. Moen's initiative that she feels this will be Doug's best year yet!

YOU'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE Mrs. Moen!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have a success story about an inclusive opportunity for a child with a disability that you would like to share? We would love to hear from you and print your story in the next edition. Email Cathy Heverly at heverlyc@pcsb.org for more information or to submit a story.

WEB SITES

Homework and Learning Sites

Cosmeo: Discovery Channel's Online Homework Help Service

www.cosmeo.com/

Math Magician Games

www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/Mathmagician

disabilityscoop
The Premier Source for Developmental Disability News

Speak Up: Your Guide To Self-Advocacy:

www.disabilityscoop.com/2009/07/21/self-advocacy/4203/

Back To School Basics:

www.disabilityscoop.com/2009/08/18/back-to-school-basics/4663/

SpecialNeedsParentCoach.com
Strategies for balanced living for parents of children with special needs

Here at SpecialNeedsParentCoach.com, our goal is to give you the practical strategies you need for successfully navigating life as a parent of a child with special needs. Our proven system helps you create a manageable, balanced, and joyful life, for both you and your family.

**Disability
DLL
Law Lowdown**

The Disability Law Low-down Project is a set of podcasts that provide up-to-date information on the Americans with Disabilities Act and related disability laws. You can listen to the podcasts, or read the transcripts, right here on the web site or you can download them to your MP3 player and listen at your convenience. Check out the web site at: www.disabilitylawlowdown.com

greatschools™

Involved Parents. Successful Kids.

The instant guide to time management for kids:

www.greatschools.net/students/academic-skills/time-management-for-kids.gs?content=1560

The truth about cyberbullying:

www.greatschools.net/parenting/bullying/faq-about-cyberbullying.gs?content=231

Seven Steps to Succeeding in Middle School:

www.greatschools.net/students/academic-skills/succeeding-in-middle-school.gs?content=661

IDEA 2004 Close Up: The Individualized

Education Program (IEP):

www.greatschools.net/LD/school-learning/the-individualized-education-program-iep.gs?content=916

**MyChild
Without Limits.org**

My ChildWithoutLimits.org is designed to be an authoritative early intervention resource with

a social networking element for families of young children ages 0-5 with developmental delays or disabilities, and professionals looking for a single, trusted, aggregate source of information that relates to their needs and interests.

The site includes a national Resource Locator where visitors can find local service providers, community organizations and government agencies. All this is intended to inform and support parents/caregivers at a time when too much information can be overwhelming and too little can be frustrating.

National Association for the Education of African American Children with Learning Disabilities

The National Association for the Education of African American Children with Learning Disabilities (NAEAACLD) was founded in 2000 for the purpose of increasing awareness and promoting an understanding of the specific issues facing African American children. The organization's mission is to link information and resources provided by an established network of individuals and organizations experienced in minority research and special education with parents, educators, and others responsible for providing a quality education for all students. Go to www.aacld.org.



Youth

BASEBALL FOR BOYS & GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES

What is Challenger Baseball ?

It's a sports program designed for the needs of children who live with physical or mental disabilities. Challenger Baseball stresses the idea of participation over competition. The kids get to participate in a sports environment structured to ensure their success.



So what's the bottom line ?

All children want to run, jump and play; be successful; to feel worthwhile, and to just have some FUN! Children want to belong no matter what their challenges in life may be. The Challenger Division provides a safe environment in which our kids can BE kids and participate in America's favorite pastime, barrier free. It's like a dream come true for these special children to actually be on a real team and playing real baseball.

Who Plays:

The Challenger Division is open to participants ages 5 through 18 (or through the completion of high school). There are several opportunities to register for the upcoming season.

For more information Call

North of Ulmerton Road

Jim Scheuerman
Phone: (727) 441-9047
ClearwaterChallengerBaseball@gmail.com

South of Ulmerton Road

Lee & Kathy Fulmer
(727) 345-7407
LFulmer@tampabay.rr.com



Make a Difference
13th Annual Kid's
Fishing Tournament
10/3/09

Clearwater Pier 60 Clearwater, FL

The tournament is opened to all kids with disabilities ages 18 years and under. For more information or to register go to www.makeadifferencefishing.org or call 727-449-9820.

CITY OF LARGO THERAPEUTIC RECREATION PROGRAMS

T.I.M. (Teens in Motion)

Ages 13-22

Dance party for teens and young adults with special needs. Participant release form required.

Highland Recreation Complex in Largo

Saturday, Oct 3: 7-9pm \$2 per participant

Saturday, Dec 5: 7-9pm \$2 per participant

Just Us Girls

Ages 10-22

Come spend your Saturday night socializing with friends while we enjoy a girls night of fun and exciting activities. Participant release form required.

6pm-8pm at Highland Recreation Complex in Largo

\$15 (R), \$18.75 (NR), \$21.75 (Guest).

Themes:

Scrapbooking 101-

Saturday, September 19

Cooking fun & Movie-

Saturday, October 17

Karaoke and Pajama Party-

Saturday, November 14

For more information, Please call Ashley Friend at (727)518-3016 or email afriend@largo.com
www.playlargo.com



Clearwater/ Countryside Lightening Youth
Non-competitive league using modified
soccer rules for children with
disabilities.
Ages 5-20

November 2009-February 2010
Games are played on Saturdays at 1:00 p.m.

Countryside Soccer Fields
McMullen Booth Rd. North of Countryside High School (next to Chi Chi Rodriguez Golf Academy).

Go to the Countryside Youth Soccer web site at www.cysa.org to download a registration and medical release form and mail it to:

Melissa Tremblay, 1587 Sand Hollow Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34683

For more information please contact

Melissa Tremblay (727)784-8493 or melmom@tampabay.rr.com



Special Olympics



Florida
Pinellas County



To find out information about programs and events go to www.SOPinellas.com

A c t i v i t i e s



City of St. Petersburg Therapeutic Recreation SPECIAL EVENTS

ADAPTIVE FITNESS EXPO

Saturday, October 10 ~ 10:00am - 2:00pm

New location! Walter Fuller Recreation Center & Park
7891 26th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, (727) 893-7443

This program is a free community event to promote health and fitness for people with physical disabilities. Exhibits showcasing adapted sports, specialized equipment, and booths hosted by local related service providers. Additionally, the event will feature hands on demonstrations, water-based recreation and much more. Open to people of all ages and abilities. All who pre-register receive a free t-shirt! To get involved, please call Angela Bennett at (727) 577-0065

SAIL EXPO

Saturday, November 7 ~ 10:00am - 2:00pm

St. Petersburg Sailing Center

250 2nd Ave. SE, St. Petersburg, (727) 922-3113

Our Spring Expo with the St. Petersburg Sailing Center was such a success we're ready to repeat it! Join us for another great day of water-based activities at this beautiful location downtown. RSVP REQUIRED TO (727) 892-5196

For more information on these and other programs call the Therapeutic Recreation office at (727) 893-7899 or visit the web site at:

www.stpete.org/recreation/therapeuticrecreation.asp

MIRACLE LEAGUE OF GULF BEACHES REGISTRATION & OPENING DAY OCT. 3



FALL SEASON OCT. 3 – NOV. 21

FREE

VIOLET'S FIELD at AZALEA PARK LL
CALL 727-278-7846 For More Information

A Project of the Kiwanis of Gulf Beaches
Foundation, Inc. a 501(c)(3)

City of Clearwater Therapeutic Recreation Program



Whether you're a beginner or an advanced player, it is never too late to work on your game.

McMullen Tennis Complex

- Hard Courts
- Fri. 5-6:45 p.m.
- Free

If you have questions in regards to this or any other programs please contact Dawn Lewellyn, CTRS at 727.793.2339 ext. 238 or go to the web site at:

www.myclearwater.com/gov/depts/parksrec/therapeutics.asp



BALLET, TAP & HIP HOP
Tae Kwon Do, Yoga & Art

Classes are designed for children with special needs to improve muscle strength, coordination, balance, self-confidence and social skills.

Two locations in Pinellas County!

Lighthouse of Pinellas in Largo
Palm Harbor YMCA (Dance only)

Call Lisa for more info
(727) 394-2636

www.specialkidsdance.org

Planet Earth Relationship Center

The Planet Earth Relationship Center is accepting applications for new fall social skills groups for children, adolescents and young adults with asperger's syndrome and related social skills disorders. Groups offered weekly and monthly. A new group is being formed: **Adjusting to Middle School Grades 6-8.**

2750 McMullen Booth Road
Clearwater, FL suite 102D 33761
For information or to reserve a spot,
call 727 738-9232.





CHADD
North Pinellas/
West Pasco

Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: Palm Harbor Library
2330 Nebraska Ave. Palm Harbor

Upcoming Dates:

10/7/09

11/4/09

12/7/09

Contact Information: Beverly Pizzano at

727-786-2987 or email at north-pinellas-westpasco@chadd.net



THE POWER AND POTENTIAL OF COMMUNICATION

2009 Autism Conference

November 6-7

Florida Institute of Technology
Gleason Performing Arts Center
Melbourne, Florida

For more information go to: <http://411.fit.edu/autismconference/>

Educational Guardians

An Educational Guardian is a person who is appointed to act in the interests of a student in an exceptional education program who does not have a parent to make educational decisions.

Volunteers are needed to become educational guardians for students attending middle, high and exceptional education schools in mid-south Pinellas County.

Information/Training session to be held November 18th, 2009
10:30 am-12:00 pm at the Title One Lakeview Annex Office, 2 2499
25th St. S. St. Petersburg, FL.
Call Cathy Heverly at 727-588-6020 or email heverlyc@pcsb.org to register for this free workshop



**5th Annual
Hydrocephalus Walk**
Largo Central Park
Largo, Florida

November 7th, 2009

9:00am-1:00pm

Fun, prizes, raffles, food for the whole family.

Register online

www.gothydro.org

Or call 727-637-5585



FDLRS Gulfcoast MAKE 'N' TAKE 1st Semester 2009-2010 Schedule

Sessions are open to teachers, assistants, parents and others who work with students with disabilities.

A variety of materials will be available to assist in your production of: gameboards, ellison machine cutouts, button making orders, big books, seasonal activities, laminating, copying, and learning center activities.

Dates:

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Thursday, November 12, 2009

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Session I 3-5 p.m. Session II 5-7 p.m.
District staff must register on LMS
Parents need to call Libby Jennings to register @ 727-793-2723 X 2045.

"The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System is funded by the State of Florida, Department of Education, Division of Public Schools and Community Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B; IDEA Part B, Preschool; and State General Revenue funds" Rev.5/2007



The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance Tampa Bay

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance Tampa Bay (DBSA), is a nonprofit and all volunteer organization for individuals, family and friends of those who have been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, depression and other affective disorders.

Support Group Meetings

Thursdays, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Pasadena Community Church The Life Enrichment Building Room 3A
227 70th St. S Pasadena, FL

Monday 7:00 PM

Lutheran Church of the Cross
4545 Chancelor St., NE, St. Petersburg, FL

For more information call 813-878-2906 or go to www.dbsatambay.org

S.I.N.C.

Sensory Integration: Networking for our Children

Join other families to network and gather resources relating to children with sensory integration disorders.

S.I.N.C. is a support group for parents and caregivers of children with sensory integration disorder.

Meeting info: Join our Yahoo group to obtain information about meeting changes, play dates etc. Go to http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/pinellas_spd_support, follow the instructions and you will receive an invite to join. NOTE: this may take a few days, our moderator is also a group member and a busy mom herself.

Events: We have a Parent's Night out the last Saturday of every month with varied locations, stay tuned! Coffee and Conversations biweekly at Panera Bread in Countryside.

For more information call Heather Joyce-Stevens at 727-543-2859 or email at heatherjs2824@verizon.net



CHADD South Pinellas Satellite

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: West Community Library (SPC Gibbs Campus)
750 66th St. N. St. Petersburg

Upcoming Dates:

10/19/09

11/16/09

12/21/09

Contact Information: Teresa Skinner at
727-409-4696 or email at south-pinellas@chadd.net

Make and Take Free Crafts for Kids Ages 3 and up



Lakeshore Learning Store
Every Saturday

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

4501 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa

Just east of Westshore Mall

For more information call 813-207-0468 or go to
www.lakeshorelearning.com

6TH Annual

Tampa Bay Area Buddy Walk

Saturday, October 10th, 2009

At Largo Central Park

101 Central Park Dr., Largo - FL



Whether you have Down syndrome, know someone who does or want to show your support, come and join the Buddy Walk!

Anyone can be a BUDDY!!!

Contact Up With Downs at 727-462-2274 or www.upwith-downsofpinellas@yahoo.com

Or you can register online at

www.firstgiving.com/tampabaybuddywalk



American Asperger's Association Support Group Meetings AUTISM AND ASPERGERS DISORDER

Pinellas Park Library
7770 52nd Street
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

These meetings are kid friendly. Anyone is welcome; family, friends, teachers, doctors, therapists, or anyone interested in learning and supporting those whom are dealing with Autistism Spectrum Disorders! Visit the web site at www.americanaspergersassociation.net

Dates:

Oct 13th

Oct 27th

Nov 10th

Time:

6:45-8:15 pm

For additional information, please call Kim at 727-586-0577 or email her at fapprez@msn.com

ESE Family Support Liaison

The ESE Family Support Liaison is a parent of students who are enrolled in exceptional education programs in Pinellas County Schools. The role of the liaison is to provide technical information and support in order to guide and empower parents to become collaborative effective supporters for their children with disabilities.

For more information or to speak with a Family Support Liaison contact the Florida Inclusion Network at: 588-6020



Family

Florida's Problem-solving and Response to Instruction/Intervention Information for Parents

A new brochure is provided by the Florida Department of Education in collaboration with the Bureau of Family and Community Outreach, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, Pasco County School District, and Florida's Positive Behavior Support Project. This publication has a focus on "Ensuring a Strong Start, Promoting a Bright Future" through an overview of RtI, how parents can be involved, key questions for parents to ask, and recommendations for parents if they believe their child is struggling. This brochure is available for download and is posted under RtI News at <http://www.florida-rti.org/>. It can also be accessed directly at <http://www.florida-rti.org/RtI-Parent-Brochure.pdf>.

GET HELP TODAY!

IS YOUR CHILD:

- Bullying other children or being bullied at school
- Acting out at home or in school
- Uncontrollable
- Truant

Call a professional now. A trained specialist will schedule a time to meet you for a private, in-home* (*or other community location) evaluation.

Available to Pinellas County residents only.



Pinellas County Schools is neither sponsoring or endorsing this program nor endorsing the views of this organization.



This nonprofit organization provides audiobooks for students with a wide range of print disabilities. Our audiobooks enable these students to access the curriculum, keep up with classroom assignments, and read grade appropriate literature. Free membership is available to any student with an IEP or 504 plan. To apply online or find out more about this program go to www.rfbd.org or call Sara Hanna, RFB&D Educational Outreach Supervisor at 941-504-1333.

ESE Parents and Advocates

ESE Parents and Advocates was founded to represent the educational needs of children belonging to the numerous special needs groups. Each of those groups provides vital information and advocacy for their individual need. Our group funnels the educational needs of our children, which is a common bond, into one united voice. We feel we can better partner with the Pinellas County School Board and its ESE Advisory Committee as a unified group to assist in decision making in regards to the programs and services offered by the school district. Go to www.esekids.org for more information.



Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc. is a statewide network of families and individuals of all ages who

may be at-risk, have disabilities, or have special needs. FND of Florida's mission is to ensure through collaboration that Floridians have full access to family-driven support, education, information, resources, and advocacy and to serve families of children with disabilities, ages birth through 26, who have the full range of disabilities described in section 602(3) of IDEA. For services go to www.fndfl.org or call 727-523-1130



2-1-1 is the one place for you to call for information on where to "Find Help" or "Give Help" in our community. 2-1-1 services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to get information on a broad variety of services. Dial 2-1-1 to speak to a representative or visit www.211tampabay.org to learn more about available programs and services.

Resources

FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST® (FCAT)

OCTOBER 12 – 16, 2009 OR OCTOBER 19 – 23, 2009	GRADES 11 – ADULT (NEW STUDENTS/RETAKES)	READING & MATHEMATICS SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS RETAKE TESTS
FEBRUARY 9 – 11, 2010	GRADES 4, 8, AND 10	WRITING SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS TEST
MARCH 9 – 19, 2010	GRADES 3 – 10	READING & MATHEMATICS SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS TESTS
MARCH 9 – 19, 2010	GRADES 5, 8, AND 11	SCIENCE SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS TEST
MARCH 9 – 19, 2010	GRADES 11 – ADULT (NEW STUDENTS/RETAKES)	READING & MATHEMATICS SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS RETAKE TESTS

Report Card Schedule

<i>Elementary</i>	<i>Middle & High</i>
Friday, Nov. 13 Friday, Feb. 26 Wednesday, June 9	Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2009 Friday, Dec. 4, 2009 Monday, Feb. 1, 2010 Wednesday, Mar. 17, 2010 Thursday, May 6, 2010 Wednesday, June 16, 2010

FDLRS GulfCoast WIKI

Check out FDLRS new Wiki for continuously updated information on support groups, agencies, summer camps, tutoring, and trainings for families who have children with disabilities or who are exceptional learners.

Go to <http://fdlrs.gulfcoast.wikispaces.com> and click on Parent Services Resources.

Friendship Skills

Below is a list of books recommended by the Florida Inclusion Network for parents to help their children develop friendship skills:

- A Smart Girl's Guide to Friendship Troubles*, by Patti Kelley Criswell and Angela Martini.
- Cap It Off With a Smile: A Guide for Making Friends*, by Robin Inwald, Ph.D.
- Fred the Mouse: Making Friends*, by Reese Haller.
- Franklin's New Friend*, by Paulette Bourgeois.
- It's So Much Work to Be Your Friend - Helping the Child With Learning Disabilities Find Social Success*, by Richard Lavoie.
- Making and Keeping Friends: Ready-To-Use Lessons, Stories, and Activities for Building Relationships Grades 4-8*, by John Schmidt.
- Making Choices and Making Friends: The Social Competencies Assets*, by Pamela Espeland and Elizabeth Verdick.
- The Unwritten Rules of Friendship: Simple Strategies to Help Your Child Make Friends*, by Natalie Madorsky Elman and Eileen Kennedy-Moore.

Pinellas County Schools ESE Advisory

ESE Advisory is a group of parents, students, community agencies, and school and district staff who are interested in exceptional student education in Pinellas County Schools. The purpose of the ESE Advisory Committee is to serve in an advisory capacity to ensure that all stakeholders involved in exceptional student education in Pinellas County Schools are informed and provided with the opportunity to be involved in the education of students with disabilities. Go to www.pcsb.org/ese for a list of meeting dates and times.

Homework Helpline

Homework Helpline is available from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm Monday through Thursday.

The numbers are: 547-7223 or 442-3226.

If you call and get a busy signal, keep trying! Some nights are busier than others.

Keep Your Child's Schedule in Balance for School Success

Some kids rush from school to soccer practice to karate. Sure, each of these activities can be a good thing on its own. But together, they may be too much of a good thing. The American Academy of Pediatrics says that kids need "down time." They suggest that play should remain a central part of childhood.

There's no question that kids benefit from organized activities. But it is just as important for kids to have time to organize themselves. Does your family's schedule strike the right balance? Here are some things to think about:

- Recognize how important free play is to children. Build in time for your child to hang out with her friends, develop hobbies, read or just daydream. This unstructured time is when she exercises her body and her imagination.
- Take cues from your child. Does she love soccer? Or is she only on the team because the sport is important to you? Many families allow each child to choose one activity per season.
- Make family time a priority. If you feel like you only see your child while you're in the car, rethink your schedule. The most important parenting jobs--listening, caring, guiding--need time to develop.
- Remember that school comes first. If your child never starts homework until after practice at 8:00, she is over-scheduled.

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Florida Disability History and Awareness Weeks

Governor Crist has proclaimed the first two weeks of October as Florida Disability and Awareness Weeks.

A copy of the resource guide is available in pdf. form at:
www.fl DOE.org/e se/pdf/DisabilityHistoryandAwarenessWeeks.pdf

Florida Inclusion Network and ESE Family Services Serving Families of Students with Special Needs



Visit us on the web at:

www.pcsb.org/e se
or
www.floridainclusionnetwork.com

To have this newsletter sent electronically or by mail, contact Cathy Heverly at 588-6020 or email at heverlyc@pcsb.org



www.pcsb.org

The Parent Connection Newsletter is designed to be an informational source for parents of special needs children. This newsletter strives to provide as much information about the services and supports available through Pinellas County Schools, the state of Florida, community agencies and community groups. Pinellas County Schools does not sponsor non-PCS information and programs in the Parent Connection Newsletter. For information or to submit an article email: cheverly@pcsb.org